

bers received, 2; dismissed, 4; pastors, 1; sermons preached, 60. S. S. C. E.: number of members, 17. K. C.: number of members, 38.

Almena: Number of members, 38; members received, 2; dismissed, 5; pastors, 1; sermons preached, 40. Sunday-school report: months in year, 6; average attendance, 20; supplies, Brethren.

Bethel: Number of members, 33; members received, 0; dismissed, 1; pastors, 1; sermons preached, 29. S. S. report: months in year, 6; average attendance, 50; collections taken, \$11.66; supplies, D. C. Cook. S. S. of C. E.: number of members, 14; average attendance, 5 to 8; collected, \$5.28; number of meetings, 11.

New Troy: Number of members, 51; deceased, 1; pastors, 1; sermons preached, 15.

S. S. report: Months in year, 12; average attendance, 40; collections taken, \$15.87; supplies, Brethren.

S. S. C. E.: Number of members, 10; average attendance, 15; collected, \$20; number of meetings, 15.

K. C.: Number of members, 45; average attendance, 33; collected, \$4.53.

Totals: Number of members, 197; members received, 4; members dismissed, 4; removals, 6; pastors, 2; sermons preached, 144. Months' S. S., 18; average attendance, 90; collected, \$27.33. All but one use Brethren literature.

S. S. of C. E.: Number of members, 41; societies, 4; collected, \$25.28; meetings, 26.

K. C.: Number of members, 83; societies, 2; collected, \$4.53.

S. S. of C. E. session of the Michigan State conference opened with devotional exercises by the president. Sister Vernie Rice was chosen secretary pro tem. Motion made and supported that the president appoint a committee on credentials. The following were appointed: Ellie Zuchnitz, Sisters Stottle and Mote. Delegates enrolled: Alice Henney, Campbell; Vina Solomon, Almena; Vernie Rice, Bethel.

Report of the chairman for year year's work given and accepted. Motion made and carried that we will do all we can to keep our societies in good working order.

Officers elected for the following year: President, Mrs. Phoebe Darby; Secretary, Mira Rice; Treasurer, Hattie Bowers. Committee on program for the following year: Mrs. Phoebe Darby, Mrs. Mira Rice, Eva Penwell. Motion made to adjourn.

WALTER CLARK, Sec.

#### COMMENTS

To my Fathers' children everywhere, greeting: Our Michigan conference is a thing of the past as far as the work done is concerned, but we have been making history which shall remain when you and I have gone to our long home, and I for one am glad to note a change for the better. The treasurer reported more money raised for missions the past year than Michigan ever raised before, and the spirit of the Christ seemed to characterize the meeting more

than usual. We had with us that noble little brother, Wm. H. Miller to help us and you know he is a power for good, and we had a splendid corps of sisters which made it all the more spiritual. Now brethren of the Mission Board, as the people were sent out under Moses and under Joash to gather into the Lord's treasury so may you do everywhere in order that the work of the Master may go forward. May the Brethren church everywhere awake right now to its mission on earth. Let us do as Jesus would do. Yea, let us do as he did. He loved us and gave himself for us. Now the question is, do we love the lost world and will we give ourselves, our substance for the sinful world. Come, let us put ourselves on record by doing something to save sinners, rescue the perishing, care for the dying.

WALTER CLARK.

#### Report of Illiokota District Evangelist

Brethren, we are again brought face to face with what seems to me, the greatest question we as a church have the deal with. I speak of the evangelistic work. In saying this, I do not under rate the work of the ministry in general, nor disparage to pastors' office, for on them rests a great responsibility, much greater than man alone is able to bear.

But that the work of the evangelist was of great responsibility in the early church, is seen by the instructions given by Paul to Timothy and Titus. Doubtless if we in the light of God's word seek for the apparently chronic causes of disturbances that appear in some of our weak churches, especially in those small congregations which have not had a good pastoral service from the time of their organization to the present time, we will find it in the fact that they have not followed the instructions of Paul touching the election and ordination of officers of the church. It seems to have been the custom in the past for the preacher or evangelist, when a reasonably successful meeting was held in some new place and a few members were gathered in, to at once proceed to organize a church, as they call it, and consequently proceeded to elect officers and ordain them, which was evidently done in all good faith, but indeed, sometimes not according to knowledge. "Rooted and grounded in the truth," is not an idle injunction of the Apostle. "Blamelessness," for the office of bishop or pastor, is not intended as an extra ornamentation, designed to decorate that high and holy office. "One that ruleth his own house well," was not intended as after-thought, but was part and parcel of what the Apostle doubtless found by experience to be needful qualities for a sure foundation to do lasting work. The deacon's office is not one of such great emolument, but my observation has been that it is a power for good or evil just in proportion as it is filled by the gospel filled men and women. It may be a haven for the pastor and church workers to take comfort in, or a cyclone to test their spiritual equilibrium and steadfastness, just according as the office is occupied by spirit filled men and women.

Doubtless you did not intend that I should produce a treatise on these subjects nor will I, but my experience the past year could not be a fruitful source of any good to this conference did I not give to you some of my honest observations. What we are pleased to call congregational government and that which we honestly believe to have been the practice of the early church can never be successful unless we as a church use just as much carefulness as did the Apostles in their day. At the close of Paul's instructions to Timothy in I Tim. 3: 16, we have this almost exclamation, "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness; God manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit." God dominating the flesh, is evidently the meaning of the Apostle. This and such terms as, "Holding the mystery of the faith," seems to be the key of Paul's idea of fitness for any ministerial office in the militant church. Flesh absolutely under the power of God, i. e., God doing the work, God getting the glory. I am aware that this is a high position, but if we can not occupy it, we can "press toward the mark of this high calling," in Christ Jesus.

I was recently asked the question, "Brother Talley, do you still believe in congregational government?" I answer, yes, if God and the Holy Spirit dominate the congregation. And if this is not the case, then there ought to be no election for officers held in such congregation, until they have been thoroughly taught, and have ardently sought the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit for the casting of the vote. I believe that no election of church officers ought ever be held without first diligently seeking the demands of the gospel and the mind of the Holy Spirit, for such office. Had this always been done we had been saved much humiliation, and the cause of Christ had been much advanced in the world. All this must be done in great kindness, even as the Lord ever instructed his disciples and bore with them in much kindness, until he could finally intrust to them the preaching under the Holy Spirit of the blessed gospel of God.

I believe that the evangelist should visit each congregation once a year, especially those that are not so strong and so well founded in the principal doctrines of the Lord, and "set in order those things that are wanting." And ordain pastors in every congregation, but according to Paul's instructions, touching qualifications. When I accepted the position of evangelist at last conference, I did it feeling that in the condition of the district at that time, I could not give the work that attention it demanded, but I would do the best I could. And I have tried by the help of God to do that which I could. I did not visit all the places that needed help, for I simply could not do so. First, for want of time, for having charge of a church, I could not get some one to preach for me just at any time I wished. Second, for want of money, for I could not pay my own expenses, and all the places that I should visit, could not always stand the expense. Though